



Now thank we all our God

Dinner in honor of
The Rev. and Mrs. W. Hamilton Aulenbach
The Holiday Inn
Philadelphia, Pa.
Sunday, September 27, 1970

Given by Members and Friends of Christ Church and St. Michael's, Germantown

With heart, and hands, and voices...



Today is a day of thanksgiving, joy, triumph and victory. It is a day for us to "thank we all our God" for the life and ministry of one of his sons through whom God has indeed done wondrous things.

Each of us has his own special reasons to be thankful that more than thirty-two years ago a vigorous young clergyman came to Christ Church and St. Michael's. He brought faith, enthusiasm, joy and zest enough to share it abundantly and make life richer for us all.

In the study, after counseling, his hands on a shoulder and his words, "Let's say a little prayer together before you go on your way," have sent thousands on their way refreshed, renewed, realizing that "life's only victory is facing its realities."

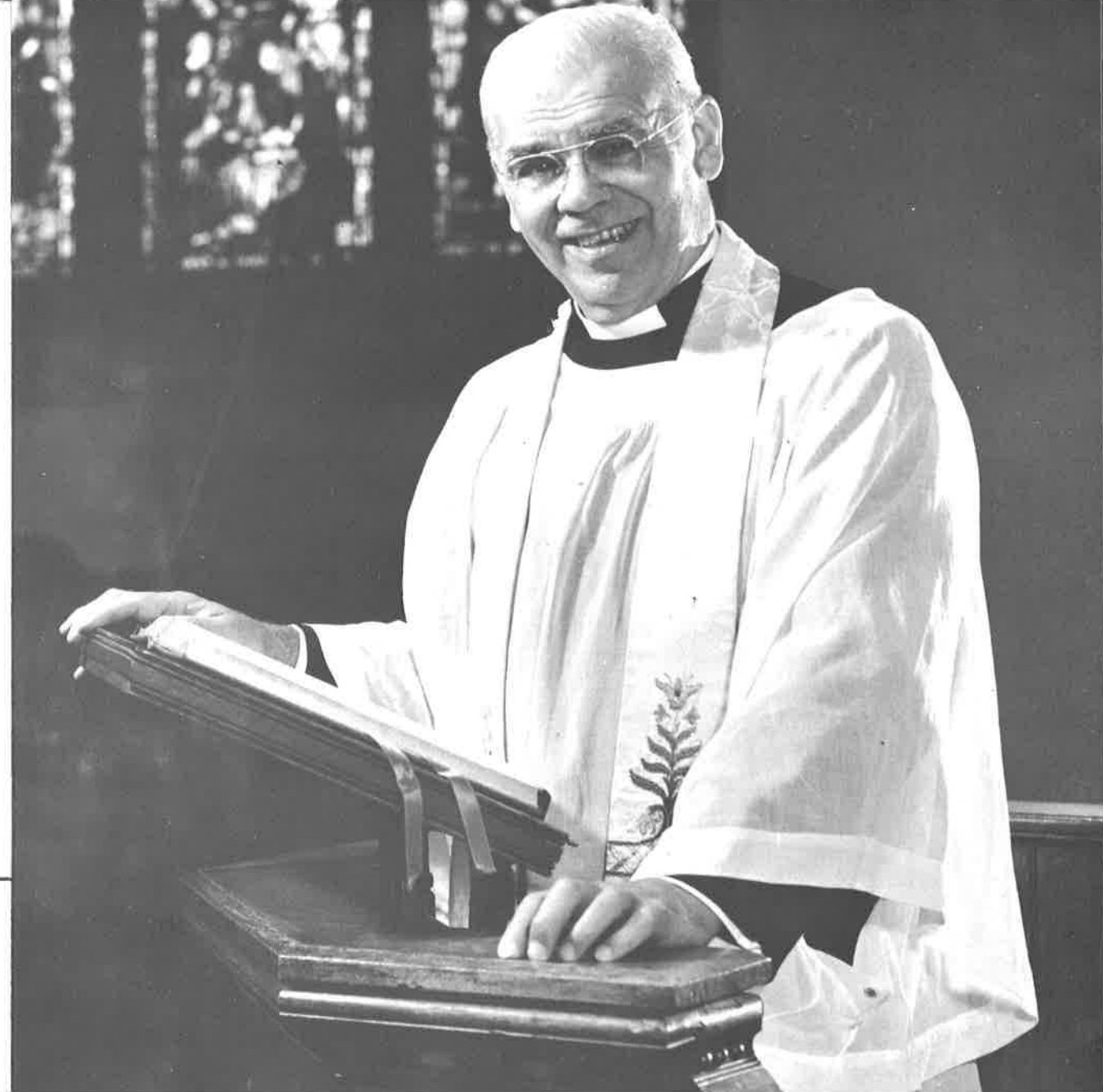
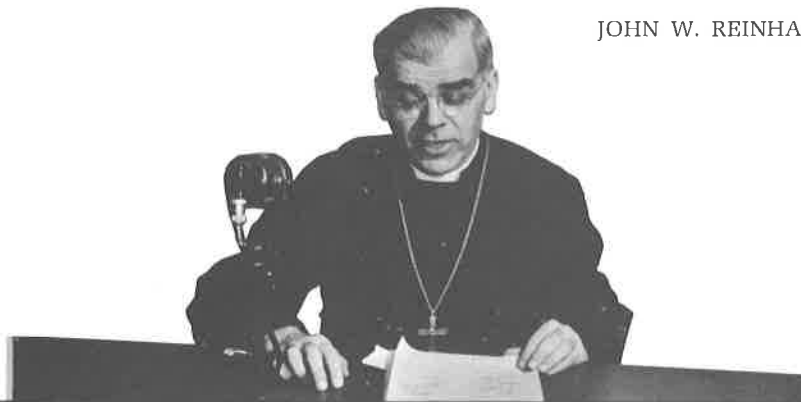
Who can ever forget the stories from the pulpit or the chancel steps . . . on Thanksgiving, "Thank you God for the nice brown roll". . . On Easter, Ivan and Vassily and the pure white lily . . . on Good Friday, Bronson Alcott taking the punishment for the offending schoolboy . . . on the first Sunday of March, Zaccheus running and climbing the tree . . . or the story of man branded on the forehead with an S.T., for sheep thief whose life converted it into meaning "saint". . . or who will forget "The Guy in the Glass"?

Who wondrous things hath done...

Sometimes it has been in the quiet of conversation, or in the thunder of a sermon, sometimes it has been at the altar rail . . . sometimes in a handshake or bear hug at the door of the church that the Rector has given us what we needed most at the moment. But always he has given unsparingly of his time, his energy, his wisdom that we might live life abundantly as he lives it in the spirit of the Lord he serves so well.

It is for these and so many, many things great and small that we give thanks and rejoice in what must surely be one of the most fruitful ministries the Christian Church has ever known. God loves you, Rector, and so do we. Hallelujah! Amen!

JOHN W. REINHARDT



In whom his world rejoices...

In telling about a World War I Chief Petty Officer who knocked a hoop from a barrel when several before him had tried and failed, the Rector quoted the Chief as he said, "What they did not realize was that to loosen the hoop required only one more blow. It wasn't because of strength or skill. The men merely quit one blow too soon."

"One blow too soon! How those words have come to my rescue over and over again. Often when I have been on the verge of quitting, I remind myself that one more blow loosened the hoop on the barrel. One more blow, one extra effort, refusing to quit when accomplishment is right around the corner. Life has taught me quitters always lose. The man who stays in there striving, has to win. Life goes to the persistent even more than to the skilled."

"Remember there are two indisputable truths. You can always hold on a little longer. There is always an unexpected good around the corner. Of course, the quitter never realizes these truths. The one who stays in there trying always does. One more blow may do it. Don't quit one blow too soon."

From QUITTERS ALWAYS LOSE



Who from our mother's arms...

"The next time you are tempted to worry or fret about yourself, release your body from such anxiety and give it over to the wholesomeness of God. Your body will heal, your mind think, and your soul respond immediately."

"So it is that Jesus heals the world. He inquired of the worried men in the boat, 'Why are ye so fearful?' Then He arose. Immediately there was a great calm. The winds and waves subsided. It was the calm which comes from God to all those who have faith in God. Jesus had so often said, 'Why worry? Which of you can increase your height a cubit through worry?' Again and again the Lord challenged His followers with 'Don't worry about tomorrow.' Today's good days will make all your tomorrows just as good. Over the ages as the storms of life beat around us we become the brave, unworried sons of God as we hear our Lord ask, 'Why be fearful?' Lack of faith leads to worry. Worry is atheism."

From WORRY IS ATHEISM



Hath blessed us on our way...

"Never were there more green lights, more opportunities to do good than today. Yet never have we been so anxious about things we can't control as we pass up doing the good deeds within our reach. Life demands that we go through."

"The lights of life are green. Don't allow the discouraged people around you to blind you to the greenness. With a chuckle remember the truck driver who called out 'Hey, buddy, it ain't gonna get no greener.' Then remember that nothing stopped our Lord. He fed multitudes. He healed the sick. He showed fishermen where to catch fish. He calmed frightened men. He challenged again and again, 'Live abundantly.' The lights of life are green. That means 'Go.' Don't wait to do your best, live your best. Green lights won't get any greener. Drive right on through to happy, challenging, useful, abundant living. God will bless you."

From IT AIN'T GONNA GET NO GREENER



With countless gifts of love...

"So many of us have in the cups of life all that is necessary to sweeten life and keep it interesting and exciting. Instead of using it, we complain and gripe and yell for more of life's sugar. Having more isn't the answer to life; using what you have as profitably and as wisely and as spiritually as possible, is important.

"Jesus, the Lord, kept stressing this over and over again. The parable of the talents was just another way of saying, 'Stir what you have.' Use what you have. Don't worry about whether you received five, or two, or even one talent. There is nothing in the parable of the talents to indicate the Lord believed numbers were essential to happiness, indeed not. Instead, He stressed the wise use of what you have.

"It is true that someone else may have ten talents and you only two, but if you use the two given you, if you 'stir what you have,' you need nothing more. You'll hear the Lord say over and over again, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of your Lord.' "

From STIR WHAT YOU HAVE



And still is ours today.

One of the Rector's favorite stories was the one of the farmer who mixed sawdust with oats in feeding his horse, until the horse was on a diet of 100% sawdust—and died.

"Yes, Jake's horse died," said the Rector, "Jake made the error of substituting cheap sawdust for honest-to-goodness grain. He couldn't. In life you and I cannot. Life demands the very best we have if it is to be lived abundantly."

The Rector compared this story to the parable of the house built on sand and the house built on rock . . . and he went on to say, "Jesus pointed out that the two houses represented two groups of people—those who listened and did nothing about the truths which they heard, people with sandy foundations; and those who were both listeners and doers, people who built upon foundations of rock. Jesus knew you could not cheat life. The horse died because Farmer Jake tried to get much for little. One can't.

"Are you feeding your soul good spiritual grain or sawdust? Like the horse, your soul will die if you are feeding it sawdust. You're the judge."

From *AND THE HORSE DIED*



All praise and thanks to God

"People are like thermometers in some instances and like thermostats in others. Some people can always tell you what the temperature of life is but after that, like the thermometer, they do nothing about it."

"Are you a thermometer knowing what is wrong with the world but doing nothing about it? Or are you a thermostat recording what is wrong and then going into action to right the wrong—to bring this old universe up to the right degree of abundant living as Jesus the Christ challenged each of us to do?"

"Watch your own reactions. Put down on a piece of paper the number of times you merely record the condition of the world. Opposite these put the word thermometer. Then note the number of times you record what needs to be done and do something about it. The word thermostat goes after these. How often nothing done? How often something done? God give us more Christians today who go into action like thermostats."

From THERMOMETER? THERMOSTAT? WHICH?



The Father now be given.

"If you look in the book of Revelation, you'll read these words, 'Behold, I make all things new.' They were spoken from the Heavenly throne by God—God who made known that he would come down to earth and dwell with men. All things would be new, fresh, unspoiled, just as good as they were created by God in the very beginning. These are among the most helpful and optimistic words in the entire Bible. God intended to help man enjoy abundant life. Man would find in all the things he experiences a newness which would make them appear to be as fresh and as alive as if he had never before experienced them.

"I love these days and their challenges, don't you? I'm challenged by the booming voice of God coming from His throne calling out 'No more tears, no more pain, no more boredom. Behold I make all things new'. Won't you put yourselves today under the new management of God's Son? You'll learn to love life and you'll live it abundantly."

From UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or
who shall rise up in his holy place?

Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure
heart; and that hath not lift up his mind unto
vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbor.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord,
and righteousness from the God
of his salvation.